

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01033 101806Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-08 IGA-02 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01 DODE-00 /062 W
-----101843Z 127667 /43

R 101446Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1033

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, EC, MASS
SUBJECT: ACCUSATION AND DENIALS THAT AMBASSADOR DINITZ RESPONSIBLE
FOR FAILURE OF KFIR DEAL

1. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AMERICAN DECISION NOT TO APPROVE THE SALE OF ISRAELI KFIR FIGHTER PLANES TO ECUADOR, TWO KNESSET MEMBERS FROM THE OPPOSITION LIKUD PARTY AIRED THEIR VIEW ON THE AFFAIR FEBRUARY 9 TO NEWS CORRESPONDENTS. MK MODAI (COMMENT: WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ISRAEL-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) BLAMED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ FOR HIS FAILURE TO GET IN WRITING FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ALLEGED ORAL ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THE KFIR SALE. MK ARENS, A TOP OFFICIAL AT ISRAEL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES WHO DEALT WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE KFIR, DISPUTE THE LOGIC OF THE AMERICAN VETO BY POINTING OUT THAT THE AMERICAN NORTHROP FIRM WAS ALSO ENGAGED IN TRYING TO SELL WARPLANES TO ECUADOR. ARENS IMPLIED THAT NORTHROP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE BIDDING SHOWED THE TRANSPARENCY OF AMERICAN CONCERN AT A LATIN AMERICAN ARMS BUILDUP, AND SAID THAT IF WASHINGTON PERSISTED IN ITS VETO THE FUTURE OF THE KFIR IS IN JEOPARDY.

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2. BOTH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THE MFA HAVE REJECTED MODAI'S CHARGES, CALLING IT UNVERIFIED, INACCURATE AND IRRESPONSIBLE.

3. DAVAR (BARNEA) REPORTED THAT ISRAEL AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAVE AGREED TO DISCUSS ISRAELI ARMS EXPORT TRANSACTIONS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF SECRETARY

VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT. DNITZ HAD SUGGESTED THE IDEA TO VANCE, ACCORDING TO BARNEA THE SAME REPORT NOTED INCREASED ISRAELI PESSIMISM OVER THE CHANCES THAT AMERICAN-MADE CLUSTER BOMBS, PROMISED TO ISRAEL BY FORMER PRESIDENT FORD LAST OCTOBER, MAY NOT BE DELIVERED.

4. YEDIOT CARRIED WITHOUT ELABORATION A FRONT-PAGE ITEM THAT AN ISRAELI DELEGATION HAS GONE TO ECUADOR TO TRY TO PERSUADE THAT COUNTRY NOT TO CONTRACT FOR ANOTHER AIRCRAFT FOR THE TIME BEING.

5. HAARETZ'S EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 10 TAKES OFF FROM THE INSTANCE OF THE AMERICAN VETO OF THE KFIR SALE AND GOES ON TO QUESTION PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE TO RESTRICT INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE IN ARMS. WILL AMERICA LIMIT ARMS SALES TO ALL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, AND CAN IT ALSO ASSURE THAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WILL NOT UPSET THE REGIONAL BALANCE OF POWER? WITHOUT SIMULTANEOUS LIMITATIONS ON ALL COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, ISRAEL'S SECURITY COULD BE UNDERMINED, SOWING THE SEEDS OF A NEW ARMED CONFLICT, HAARETZ SAYS.

6. COMMENT: THE KFIR DEAL AND REALTED ARMS STORIES HAVE NOT CEASED GENERATING A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF STORIES HERE. THERE ARE A FEW REPORTS THAT THESE SUBJECTS MAY ARISE DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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TAGS: MASS, IS, EC, US, (DINITZ, SIMCHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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